

In 1932 when the Tax Limitation Amendment was voted on by the payers of Pocahontas County little did they know how much they were to be benefitted by it. The farmers of the county were benefitted more than any other people, as it shifted a greater part of their tax burden to other groups or individuals that up until that time had paid a very small part of the taxes collected in the county. In 1934 instead of the county levy being for ~~the~~ the large amounts it had been in the preceding years the county levy was for \$ 72,282.00 and the public service tax amounted to \$ 34,146.00 and the total expenditures of the county were \$ 309,889.00 with a balance of \$ 63,649.00.

Up until that time it had taken from 25 to \$ 30,000.00 to take care of the poor and dependent of the county but in 1933 when the State and County Department Of Public Assistance began to function this amount was taken over by the state all but 15 % that was ~~be~~ taken care of by ~~Ra~~ Pocahontas County, but as a depression was on many families were forced to apply for help so this load grew until in 1939 the amount spent in Pocahontas County to assist the needy was \$ 52,000.00 not counting administrative cost.

The consumers sales tax enacted in 1932 of 2% that is collected by the state, goes mostly to the school fund in 1935 the amount collected was \$ 13,099.00 in the years that followed this tax doubled and more until

In 1940 they collected \$ 34,356.00 but this was a slight decrease to what had been collected since this consumers tax law was passed but as business conditions began to improve and the wage earner had more to spend ~~and~~ this fund increased considerably, this or a greater part of it comes back from Charleston to pay our school teachers, thus lifting this burden from the shoulders of our heaviest tax payers to the shoulders of the ones that heretofore paid little or no taxes, thus they contributed very little toward the expenses of our county government until this tax law was passed. In broadening our tax plans we have what use to have to be raised by county levy but which is raised otherwise now, in these classes of taxation we have the Consumers Sales Tax, The Inheritance tax, gross sales tax, taxes collected by the Internal Revenue Department and others.

The growth and development of our county has been brought about by taxation, for it was taxation that brought about our free School system where by all children could receive a free school education and prepare themselves for the tasks awaiting them on the farm, in our banks, our churches, in our schools and administering our county affairs. Therefore taxes fairly distributed and collected and wisely spent means a County Government performing a task for its' citizens that cannot be br-

ight about any other way.

Through taxation Pocahontas County has expanded in many, many ways as we have a good county government working for and with the people of the county, a school system surpassed by none, and buildings of the best while our Courthouse and jail are among the best built some time ago and only surpassed by ones built recently throughout the state, we have a vast road system as every section of the county has roads over which our citizens travel daily performing the tasks they have to do, we have law enforcement bodies performing their work nobly all these and many more are the things that has caused our county to prosper and make it a good county in which to live, a county government of the people, by the people and for the people. Built with toil and sweat which was given by our pioneers in the infancy of the county that we today might have a county government of a democratic form that would stand the test and be in the end a guide for our people to follow and continue our American way of life, that we here in Pocahontas County might live our lives and contribute from time to time in any way we can to the advancement of mankind, All of which is brought about directly or indirectly by taxation, as our county like our state and nation has been built and maintained by taxation of some sort.

Information. County Records. Sheriff's Office. Marlinton, W. Va.
 W. Va. Blue Books. 1935 to 40.

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